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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE**  
**AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**71<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL**  
**EVENT ENTITLED:**  
**“CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SUSTAINABLE**  
**DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”**

**NEW YORK**  
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**Mr. President,**

It is a great and solemn for me to be part of this High-Level Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals. I wish to seize this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for your relentless efforts in organizing this event to strengthen political momentum on climate change and to reinforce synergies between climate action and delivering on the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

Namibia associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Ecuador on behalf of G77 and China.

**Mr. President,**

In the past two years the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda comprising of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, which offers a distinctive opportunity to move towards in a more integrated and balanced development. Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change are inextricably interconnected, mostly around the aspects of poverty, gender equality, food security, energy, and human rights. Therefore, the 2030 global agenda cannot be achieved without addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation with the focus on these central issues of sustainable development.

Climate change is a global problem and requires a global response from all of use, both the developed and developing countries. Therefore, as a global community, we have committed to protect our planet from degradation and take action on climate change to addressing development challenges while ensuring that progress towards achieving an ambitious agenda for sustainable development by 2030, and promising that we will leave no-one behind in doing so. Our greatest challenge is to achieve sustainable development for everyone, everywhere, for all countries and for all groups, particularly the most vulnerable in our societies.

**Mr. President,**

Namibia, ratified the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change in 1995, and subsequently ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016, which entered into force in November during the same year. We have implemented ambitious policies and measures designed to mitigate and adopt the adverse effects of climate change, to overcome the losses and damages arising from climate change-induced natural disasters, particularly the enactment of the National Policy on Climate Change in 2011.

Namibia is already achieving several national plans that merged sustainable development goals and climate change issues, such as the development of the national climate strategic plan and action plan 2013-2020, a National Appropriate Mitigations Action focusing on rural development in Namibia through electrification with renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, and hydro electricity production, including a new agricultural policy aimed at guaranteeing access to quality food.

Yet, as a young democracy with all its challenges in terms of the adverse climate change patterns our difficulty and harsh environmental constrains make Namibia extremely vulnerable to external shocks. We are a drought prone country, with much of the land not suitable for crop production. Therefore the issue of land degradation, known as “desertification” is a major concern for us. I urge that emphasis should also be placed on land-based approaches to adaptation in order to build resilience to climatic shocks and improve the coping capacity of the land.

**Mr. President,**

I conclude by reiterating that climate change and sustainable development can only exist in an environment of good governance, and South-South, North-South, and Triangular Cooperation is important for us. Therefore, Namibia looks forward to strengthening of partnerships on integrated approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, an important factor in realizing the promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I Thank You.